

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 are amended, claim 8 is added, and claim 3 is canceled. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found, for example, in the original claims and paragraph [0011] of the specification, as filed. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 6 contain allowable subject matter and are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claim 3 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. Without admitting the propriety of the rejection, claim 4 is amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A. Bisberg

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bisberg et al., Macromolecules, (1995) Volume 28, Number 1, pages 386-389 (hereinafter "Bisberg"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Therefore, Bisberg does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by

Bisberg. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Cumming

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,414,069 to Cumming et al. (hereinafter "Cumming").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Therefore, Cumming does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Cumming. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Bisberg and Utsugi

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bisberg in view of U.S Patent No. 5,670,792 to Utsugi et al. ("Utsugi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claim 7 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Specifically, claim 7 is amended to recite "wherein each of L¹ and L² is a substituted or unsubstituted phenylene group." Bisberg does teach such a feature. Despite its asserted teachings, Utsugi does not cure the deficiencies of Bisberg. Therefore, Bisberg and Utsugi, considered either separately or combined, fail to teach each and every element of independent claim 7 and, thus, would not have rendered obvious claim 7. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Cumming and Utsugi

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Cumming in view of Utsugi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claim 7 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Specifically, claim 7 is amended to recite "wherein each of L¹ and L² is a substituted or unsubstituted phenylene group." Cumming does teach such a feature. Despite its asserted teachings, Utsugi does not cure the deficiencies of Cumming. Therefore, Cumming and Utsugi, considered either separately or combined, fail to teach each and every element of independent claim 7 and, thus, would not have rendered obvious claim 7. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. New Claim

By this Amendment, new claim 8 is presented. New claim 8 is believed to be patentable over the applied references because new claim 8 variously depends from claim 1 and, thus, distinguishes over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, prompt examination and allowance of new claim 8 are respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Benjamin S. Prebyl
Registration No. 60,256

JAO:BSP/cxo

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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